



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Biscayne National Park
9700 S. W. 328th Street
Homestead, Florida 33033-5634



August 21, 2014

Memorandum

To: Brian Carlstrom, Superintendent

From: Wayne Rybeck, Deputy Chief Ranger/LES

Subject: Amendment of Biscayne National Park Compendium

On June 19, 2014, National Park Service Director, Jonathan Jarvis, issued a Policy Memorandum on the use of unmanned aircraft within units of the National Park Service. This Policy Memorandum requires each park to amend its Superintendent's compendium to prohibit the use of unmanned aircraft except in very specific circumstances.

Based on this Memorandum I recommend the following amendment to the Biscayne National Park Superintendent's Compendium:

Definitions: The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including recreation or commerce.

Section 1.5 Closure and Public Use Limits: Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft from within or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Biscayne National Park is prohibited except as approved in writing by the Superintendent.

Justification: There are several potential impacts of the use of unmanned aircraft within the boundaries of the Biscayne National Park. First, Biscayne National Park has a main entrance road that comprises only two lanes one ingress, one egress) for a distance of one mile. This road is very narrow and unmanned aircraft could cause distractions to drivers or could potentially strike a motor vehicle.

Second, unmanned aircraft can disturb wildlife, including species covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act such as nesting bald eagles and waterbirds, and may negatively impact the viewshed and designed landscape of Biscayne National Park by allowing activities contradictory to a landscape uninterrupted by modern development.

Finally, the Park contains sensitive sites of cultural significance. The use of unmanned aircraft could be used to identify and locate submerged shipwreck sites, and used by violators to alert them to the presence of law enforcement.

The closure of Biscayne National Park to unmanned aircraft eliminates the potential for adverse effect. Furthermore it reduces the potential disruption of the visitor experience in sites such as those properties eligible or listed on the National Register.

Biscayne National Park does not meet any of the specific circumstances that would allow the private or commercial use of unmanned aircraft and will not consider the issuance of Special Use Permits for the private or



commercial use of unmanned aircraft within the boundaries of the park. Administrative use of unmanned aircraft may be approved in writing by the Superintendent and Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection for such purpose as scientific study, search and rescue operations, fire operations, and law enforcement. Administrative use includes the use of unmanned aircraft by (i) NPS personnel as operators or crew; (ii) cooperators such as government agencies and universities that conduct unmanned aircraft operations for the NPS pursuant to a written agreement; and (iii) other entities, including commercial entities, conducting unmanned aircraft operations for the NPS, provided such entities are in compliance with all applicable FAA and Department of the Interior requirements.

As required an Environmental Screening Form was completed and is attached to this memorandum.

These designations will remain in effect within the Superintendent Compendium until changed by a superseding regulation.


Wayne Rybeck, Deputy Chief Ranger / LES

8.21.14

Date


Brian Carlstrom, Superintendent

8.21.14

Date